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POETRY.

THREE WORTHLESS FELLOWS.

Three worthless fellows went out in the night when the sun was low,
And the moon shone bright and low,
And the stars were shining clear,
And the wind was blowing free.

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WOMAN.

BY ALPHA.

EDITOR SPIRIT.

It was my purpose on mailing you my last article to say nothing more on this subject, but since Henri St. Roque has joined the opposing ranks I shall be pleased to have you remember me to him kindly. I had credited him with wit enough to hold his tongue, but behold with what slanders he walks into public print; tells his brother colleagues and sisters to "stand aside, they haven't brain enough to cope with so formidable an adversary," and to let him master the subject or "tread the wine press alone." Henri is certainly a skeptic, for see what little faith he has in those noble productions of Emile, Beta, and others. You call for allies in my behalf, but I shall think myself happy to inform you there is nothing of skepticism among the friends of my cause. The question at issue is entrusted to me, not because of any ability I may possess, but entirely under the conviction that the cause I have espoused declares a victory in my favor. I am sorry my articles have such singular effects upon my opponents, as it is certainly dishonorable to have for one's opponents parties whose brain is so strangely located. They are amusing to one, nauseous to another, and a third, poor fellow, is thrown into a fit of hydrophobia. The parties will please state in what locality their brain may hereafter be found and I will address myself to those parts. But enough, I shall pay my respects to Henri. Let us notice his points consecutively.

First, he asks "can any one point to a truly sensible, great man who has ever been known to proclaim his superiority to his mother?" and refers to Solomon and his mother seated at his right hand on the throne. Solomon neither publicly nor privately declared his mother his intellectual equal, for he was then the wisest man who lived, or now, or shall ever live, and Solomon was a good man and could not prevaricate. He would not deify his mother, his intellectual equal when she could not be such. He simply paid her that respect due from a son to his mother, acknowledging, perhaps, that upon the whole, she was his peer in life.

Secondly, "It is known," says Henri, "to all who have taken the trouble to investigate the subject, that the mother transmits to her offspring more distinctively than the father." While I know there are men of learning who agree with him, and my experience is not so extensive as his, still I deny the assertion on metaphysical and physiological grounds. But Henri would scan the lineage of his domestic animals, I the work of learned authors; he would respect the families of his acquaintance, I the pages of history. As to which of these is most authentic and most creditable, the reading public shall be my judges. "History repeats itself" is a proverb older perhaps, than the expression of Henri. Anything, therefore, which we can prove from history may be expected either to have been repeated at some time past or yet to come, and those things which have failed to transpire in times past shall have no likeness in future, for "there is nothing new under the sun," saith the preacher. In retrospect of the pages of history, we find the nearer we approach the dark ages of antiquity when men roamed as wild beasts through the forest and across the plains, the less visible is that difference of transmission by father and mother to which Henri refers. That this is a fact, any one can read for himself. Then to establish the point in view, we have only to assign our reasons for this.

At the present time, this difference of transmission is not due to anything of inheritance on the part of the offspring, but solely to the rearing of the youth, its early schooling and instruction. From the time of birth till the offspring arrives in its teens it is associated constantly with its mother, its early training being left almost entirely to her discretion, the father, as usual, being absent all the while. As of course, during its tender years the child imbibes, but

does not inherit, many of its mother's peculiar manners and customs, which will doubtless cling to him in after years. But it is not these early impressions which constitute the intellectual caliber of a man. While they may, to some extent, mould the disposition of their victim, for this comes solely by inheritance. Art may develop and science embellish and refine, but they cannot implant in the breast of mortals the germ of genius. Now it is this genius or mental superiority to which I have so often referred as constituting the intellectual difference of the two sexes. Since, then, "a tree is known by its fruit," and the annals of history fail to furnish us with sufficient proof of the intellectual equality of the two sexes, or an instance in which the genius transmitted was from the mother, we think it fair to conclude that genius is not of inheritance, and that the offspring cannot inherit from its mother that which she does not herself possess. But even the small difference above referred to is obliterated when we revert to ancient history. For there the infant, mentally considered, was reared directly neither by father nor mother, being generally left to the dictates of nature, of conscience and of choice. In many instances where the flame of genius was visible the father would place his son under the instructions of some philosopher noted for his piety and learning. In which case even the few customs and manners imbibed in early youth, if not erased, would be so totally ignored that they would never afterward figure in the affairs of life. Again, it is contrary to one of the fundamental laws of nature as given by God Himself, to make any discrepancy in transmission on the part of father or mother. "Like shall produce its likeness" is a universal law, applicable alike to animate and inanimate nature. In some instances the offspring may inherit, to some extent, the image of both father and mother, in others it will partake only of the one or the other. It is a well-known and fully established fact that the existence of certain circumstances on the part of parents at the time of conception will insure a male offspring, and of certain others a female. In the first instance, the offspring partakes of the father's likeness, and vice versa. Now when the former circumstances exist the likeness of the father's brain and mental vigor as well as physical features is transmitted, in the latter, the "weaker, frailer" vessel transmits her likeness. Hence the imperfections and imperfections of mother Eve and of Adam have been transmitted along down from mother to daughter, and from father to son, to the present time, with about the same distinctions of the two sexes as when time first began. This is no mere idea, nor do we claim to be its author. But the nature of this subject forbids our entering into detail. For the benefit of those who may wish to make deeper research, we will refer them to the work by Prof. O. S. Fowler on the conjugal relation of the two sexes.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

Plants Blooming Without Earth.

M. Alfred Dumesnil, a son-in-law of Jules Michelet, claims to have made an interesting and useful discovery—how to preserve plants in a perfectly vigorous state without any earth. Since November, 1880, he has, with the exception of a six weeks' stay in Paris, been continually taking plants from the ground and applying his process to them; has never found the least interruption in their vegetative functions; on the contrary, winter and spring plants have blossomed with a vigor which he has never seen in his garden. With the shelter of a glass, hellebores taken up at the end of November and the middle of December have remained from two and a half to three months in blossom. Other plants, daisies, violets, arbutus, etc., have not only been in bloom for 3 months but have thrown out new buds. Bulbous roots, small shrubs and exotic plants, such as azaleas and cyclamens, take equally well to the process. M. Dumesnil exhibited some specimens of plants blooming without earth, in the Square Solvay, in Rouen, about 14 miles from Paris, any one may have seen. The demonstration of the results he has obtained.

Red Birds.

At this season of the year, when a deeper crimson comes upon the robin's breast, bird life is thought to be ideal happiness. If we are to believe a competent witness in the current number of The Squire, such is not the case. Birds, we are assured, have all the bad qualities of mankind. They are deficient in love for their offspring, and have no more conjugal affection than the traditional rover. Their moral nature is often depraved. They hiss, and scold, and swear, and exhibit terrible pugnacity. The majority of singing birds have the tempers of wasps, and are apparently never so happy as when they are quarreling. A fourth of their lives is, we are told, passed in scolding and fighting. In their singing season, which is also their time for mating and contention, severe pitched battles, fought between candidates for matrimonial life, are of continual occurrence, males and females engaging in the fight on the slightest provocation.

Those of the stronger sex are, of course, the more pugnacious, and often fight till they are killed. The females also fight furiously for the males, and are sorry to hear that, when the contest is over, the conquerors march off with the objects of their choice, "unless they should be met on the road by other virgins, and compelled to give up their husbands by force." It is sad to know that the latter are so ungallant as to seem indifferent as to which shall win them, and remain idle spectators of the struggle. A male bird will allow two hens to fight for him until one of them is killed, and then with due humility accompany the victor.

At this period of the year, especially, the woods and the fields are described as the scenes of desperate battles. Shrieks of triumph and shrieks of defeat mingle with the love-notes of the newly-mated. Strife is visible everywhere through out the feathered creation. The very songs we hear at dawn of day, we are assured, more the result of rivalry and ambition than of joyous thanksgiving, the feathered songsters being desirous of drowning the voices of others or of excelling them in vocal power in presence of the females.—London Globe.

A Sixty-Seven Cents Swear.

Away back in April, 1794, an act was passed by the legislature of Pennsylvania making it an offense punishable by a fine of sixty-seven cents, and in default of payment 24 hours imprisonment in the house of correction, for any person of the age of 16 years or upward guilty of profanely using the name of God, but this law has never been enforced to any great extent. One of the first cases of the kind that has been heard of for a long while lately occurred in Philadelphia. Annie McGrew and Daisy McCurdy, residents of Hirst street were charged by Henry A. Chesley, of No. 19 North Eleventh street with maliciously breaking up fire-wood a lot of furniture while they lived in his house. The women claimed that Chesley kept a disreputable place and sold liquor to minors. When asked what he had to say in answer to this accusation, Chesley brought his fist down on the magistrate's desk with considerable force and, using an oath, declared that the women were liars.

"What do you mean, sir, by using such language here?" indignantly demanded the magistrate. "Just what I said," replied Chesley. Then the magistrate began searching through his case of legal lore for some act that would warrant him in punishing the man for his profanity. At last he came across the act referred to, and imposed the fine, which was promptly paid by Chesley.

Hilda Krugger: A pretty foot is very like those pocket-books we see advertised as lost. "Of no value to any one except the owner." Cure for Sprains.—Alcohol, one pint; oil of spike, one ounce; origanum, one ounce; camphor, one ounce; spirits of ammonia, one ounce.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY.

Onida: Some lines are blessed as truth.

Dr. John Lord: She trusted him, like a woman; he betrayed her, like a man.

George Elliot: Genius at first is little more than a great capacity for receiving discipline.

May Agnes Fleming: It is more common for women to feel enthusiasm than to inspire it.

Bunyan: Old truths are always new to us if they come "with the smell of heaven upon them."

Hilda Krugger: Joys are never fully appreciated until seen through the magnifying glass of the past.

King Francis I: A royal court without women is like a year without spring, spring without flowers.

Ingersoll: To build a school is to construct a fort. To teach the alphabet is to inaugurate a revolution.

Alexander Dumas: We have all known happy days in our childhood, whatever we may have known since.

Prof. March: The great thinker is seldom a disputant. He answers other men's arguments by stating the truth as he sees it.

George Elliot: No story is the same to us after the lapse of time; or, rather we who read it are no longer the same interpreters.

Anon: There is nothing so terrible to strong, earnest natures as to have any insufficiency in themselves brought keenly home to them.

Scott: He that does good, having united power to do evil, deserves praise not only for the good he performs, but for the evil which he forbears.

Anon: It may serve as a comfort to us all in our calamities and afflictions that he that loses anything and gets wisdom by it is a gainer by the loss.

Auerbach: Every one rejoices that there are others lower down in the scale than himself, and is willing, on that account, to suffer some to stand above him.

Mary W. Shelly: How much happier than man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow.

Dickens: The old, old fashion! the fashion that came in with our first garments, will last unchanged until our race has run its course, and the wide firmament is rolled up like a scroll; the old, old fashion—Death!

Life in the Deep Sea.

The conditions under which life exists in the deep sea are very remarkable. The pressure exerted by the water at great depths is enormous, and almost beyond comprehension. It amounts roughly to a ton weight on the square inch for every 1000 fathoms of depth, so that at the depth of 2500 fathoms, there is a pressure of two and a half tons per square inch of surface, which may be contrasted with the fifteen pounds per square inch pressure to which we are accustomed at the level of the sea surface.

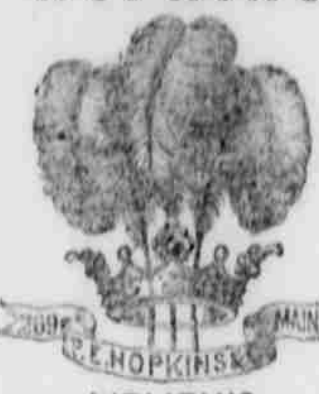
An experiment made by Mr. Buchanan enables us to realize the vastness of deep sea pressure more fully than any other facts.

Mr. Buchanan hermetically sealed up at both ends a thick glass tube full of air, several inches in length. He wrapped this sealed tube in flannel, and placed it, so wrapped up, in a wide copper tube which was one of those used to protect the deep sea thermometers when sent down with the sounding apparatus.

The copper case containing the sealed glass tube was sent down to the depth of 2000 fathoms and drawn up again. It was then found that the copper wall of the case bulged and bent inwards opposite the place where the glass tube lay, just as if it had been crumpled inwards by being violently squeezed. The glass tube itself, within its flannel wrapper, was found when withdrawn, reduced to a fine powder, like straw almost.

Notes by a Naturalist.

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By virtue of authority vested in me as Marshal of the town of Sardis, I will, on the 23rd day of May, 1881,

offer for sale to the highest bidder, in front of them, my office in said town, the following described property lying and being in the county of Panola and State of Mississippi, in said town, to-wit:

Block 25, assessed to Sarah Piles at 30 cents damages \$1.00, total \$1.30. Fr. lot 5 block 35, assessed to George W. Ballentine, at \$1200, tax \$3.60, damages \$1.00, total \$5.60. The same will be sold for taxes unpaid for the year 1880.

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Pass Cairo..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Batesville..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Courtland..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Hattiesburg..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Gulfport..... 7:30 p.m.
Arrives at Grand Gulf..... 7:30 p.m.

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Leaves Memphis..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Cairo..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Batesville..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Courtland..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Hattiesburg..... 7:30 p.m.
Pass Gulfport..... 7:30 p.m.
Arrives at Grand Gulf..... 7:30 p.m.

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Pass Hattiesburg..... 7:30 a.m.
Pass Gulfport..... 7:30 a.m.
Arrives at Grand Gulf..... 7:30 a.m.

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